SEND GHANA

Where is Social Distancing Popular and Where it is Least Practiced in Ghana

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@SEND_GHANA Sendghanaofficial www.sendwestafrica.org

Preface

Social life in Ghana, just as elsewhere, has changed tremendously since March 12th, 2020, when an official announcement was made to the effect that two people had tested positive for the novel coronavirus. In what has come to be known as the 'new normal', one of the key measures taken and has since been enforced is the need to observe social or physical distancing. Specific measures included closure of schools, a ban on public gathering and observance of physical distancing of at least 2 meters apart where necessities required two or more people to gather at one place. Others included the need to comply with basic hygienic conditions of regular hand-washing, application of hand-sanitizers and mandatory wearing of facial and/or nose masks.

The new normal has shifted teaching and learning as well as religious worship to online and audio-visual platforms. Persistently, citizens are encouraged to remain indoors as long as they do not have pressing need to go out. In the wake of the ease of restrictions on movement, limitation are imposed regarding the number of people who can attend social events such as religious meetings, weddings, and funerals.

SEND GHANA just as many other organisations, has had to embrace the inevitable shift in operations not only to protect staff but also safeguard our project principals and all stakeholders. These measures have inspired us to monitor programs aimed at nipping COVID-19 in the bud including mitigation measures. The need to measure compliance, impact and experiences regarding social or physical distancing protocols introduced by the government has become indispensable. This survey seeks to provide the perspectives of key project partners who have had to cope with social distancing measure and adjust to the new normal. The action forms part of the 'People for Health' (P4H) project funded by USAID and is meant to glean substantial insights into how citizens are complying with social distancing in selected P4H communities. This understanding is critical to informing our policy advocacy and public sensitisation initiatives to not only complement government effort, but also provide evidence to improve on measures introduced to curb the spread of the diseases and to ensure equity in program delivery meant to mitigate impact and support adjustment to the new normal.

The survey would not have been possible but for the funding support from USAID. My gratitude goes to the SEND team especially the Chief of Party of the P4H project, Mr. Siapha Kamara, the Deputy Country Director, Dr Emmanuel Ayifah and the Communication Officer, Mr. Mohammed Tajudeen Abdulai, for their leadership and editorial work on the report. Specific mention is made of Mr. Maurice Nkrumah who led the design of the survey and the preparation of the report. I say Ayekoo to all the staff of SEND Ghana who contributed diversely to the successfully completion of this work. But mostly importantly, I extend a hand of gratitude to the underlisted partners without whose support and cooperation we could not have generated the data for the analysis. They include;

No.	**Name of Focal Persons**	**Districts**
1	Christabel Osei-Boateng	La Nakwantanang Madina
2	Mbamba Mark Osman	Central Gonja
3	Abdulai Salam	Gushegu
4	Sumaia Ibrahim	Tamale
5	Achiri Daniel	East Mamprusi
6	Prince Amponsah Safori	Nkwanta South
7	Clement Kwesi Mamadu	Krachi East
8	Samuel Yao Atidzah	Adaklu & Agotime Ziope
9	John Agbegah	Ashaiman
10	Kwame Grundow	Tema
11	Dina Okyerewa Woode	Akuapem North
12	Samuel K Atter	Lower Manya Krobo
13	Jane Amerley Oku	Accra
14	Andrews Acheampong	Birim South
15	Gabby Dakudedzi	Shai Osudoku
16	Abubakar Shani	Yendi

It is our hope that results from this survey will provide evidence and insight to ensuring effective management of social and physical distancing measures to aid the fight against COVID-19. This is our contribution to the 'whole society' approach to fighting the pandemic.

George Osei-Bimpeh
Country Director, SEND GHANA

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List of Acronyms

CHPS Community-Based Health Planning and Services
NCCE National Commission for Civic Education
OPD Out Patient Department
P4H People for Health
PPE Personal Protective Equipment
SARS Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SEND Social Enterprise Development
USAID United States Agency for International Development

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of monitoring citizens compliance to the COVID-19 measures/protocols, the People for Health (P4H) project funded by USAID undertook a survey to understand how people are complying with social distancing in selected P4H communities. The survey covered 19 out of the 20 project districts across 7 political administrative regions . It was conducted between 15th April, 2020 to 5th May, 2020 when the lockdown and other COVID-19 related restrictions came into force.

The results from the survey indicates that social distancing was largely being adhered to in most public spaces, except for market centers. Out Patient Department (ODP) at Community Health Planning Services (CHPS) were observed as the best public space where both service providers and clients were complying with the social distancing directive. Religious establishment, in keeping with the directive, have closed all worshiping centers to their members/ public. Traditional authorities were also complying with the directive on social and public gatherings. Market centers on the other hand were observed to be flouting the social distancing directive. Markets are congested making it difficult for buyers and sellers to operationalize the social distancing directive.

To ensure that the social distancing directive is fully adhere to the following are recommended:

- District assemblies must ensure that market centers are decongested to allow smooth implementation of the COVID-19 social distancing directive. This can be done by having small satellite markets with few markets or rotating market folks to sell under strict supervision.
- Government must strictly enforce all the COVID-19 preventive measures especially in market centers, by deploying law enforcement agencies to enforce the directives.
- Public education should be intensified at the sub district level on the mode of spread of the COVID-19.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY ON SOCIAL DISTANCING

Addressing the nation on measures to prevent the spread and sustain the fight against COVID-19, the President of Ghana on the 15th of March, 2020 announced among others, a ban on social or physical gathering. Public places including schools, health facilities chief palaces, places of worship, transport stations, vehicle, etc. were expected to adhere to the presidential directive banning public gathering. The purpose of this short survey was to assess the implementation and challenges to COVID-19 related social distancing measures. The P4H will use the findings to educate and promote compliance with the social distancing protocol announced by Mr. President. The answers represent the views of Focal Persons (FP)

Based on their interactions, observations and experiences in their communities y since the ban on social/physical gathering was instituted. Sixteen (16) out of the expected 19 focal persons completed this exercise, implying that we had responses from 16 communities.

3. WHAT IS SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT IN PREVENTING COVID-19

Social distancing is definitely the newest buzz and most used word in present day public health discussion, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. With the help of Harvard Health let us un pack the abbreviation : "COVID:CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.' The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) "[1]. COVID-19 spreads "when one person breathes in droplets that are produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes"[2]. It is for this reason that social distancing is so important in breaking the spreading of COVID-19. Social distancing means keeping a space of about 6 feet or 2 meters minimum between you and the next person. By practicing social distancing and wearing face mask, one is most likely not to inhale or pass on the COVID-19 to another. Therefore, when we practice social distancing, we are adhering to and promoting a good public health care behavior. However, in addition to wearing face mask, social distancing should be accompanied by regular handwashing with soap. The reason is that the droplets of the virus could remain active on open surfaces, for example tables, or door tub; anyone contacting an infected space will take in the virus by touching their mouth, nose or eye. Washing hands with soap, therefore, complements social distancing in preventing the spread of COVID-19

4. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The population of the study were all nineteen (19) focal persons working under the P4H project in 19 districts across 7 regions (Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta, Oti, Northern, North East and Savannah). Some of the communities covered are La Nakwantanang Madina, Buipe, Tamale, Langbinsi, Nkwanta, Dambai, Ho, Ashaiman, Santoe, Mamfe Odumase Krobo, Sabon Zongo, Akim Swedru, Prampram Abia and Yendi. The focal persons were purposively chosen based on their knowledge and experience of the P4H districts and their communities of residence in particular

Google form was used for collecting the responses after the questionnaires had been pretested to ensure the reliability and consistency of the data collection instrument. Google form was helpful to distribute and collect the responses in a specific format and was analyzed using SPSS Version 25. The study was conducted from 15th April, 2020 to 5th May, 2020.

[1] https://www.google.com/search?q=What+is+COVID&rlz=1C1SQJL_
[2] https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/preventing-the-spread-of-the-coronaviru

5. FINDINGS

5.1 Background of Respondents

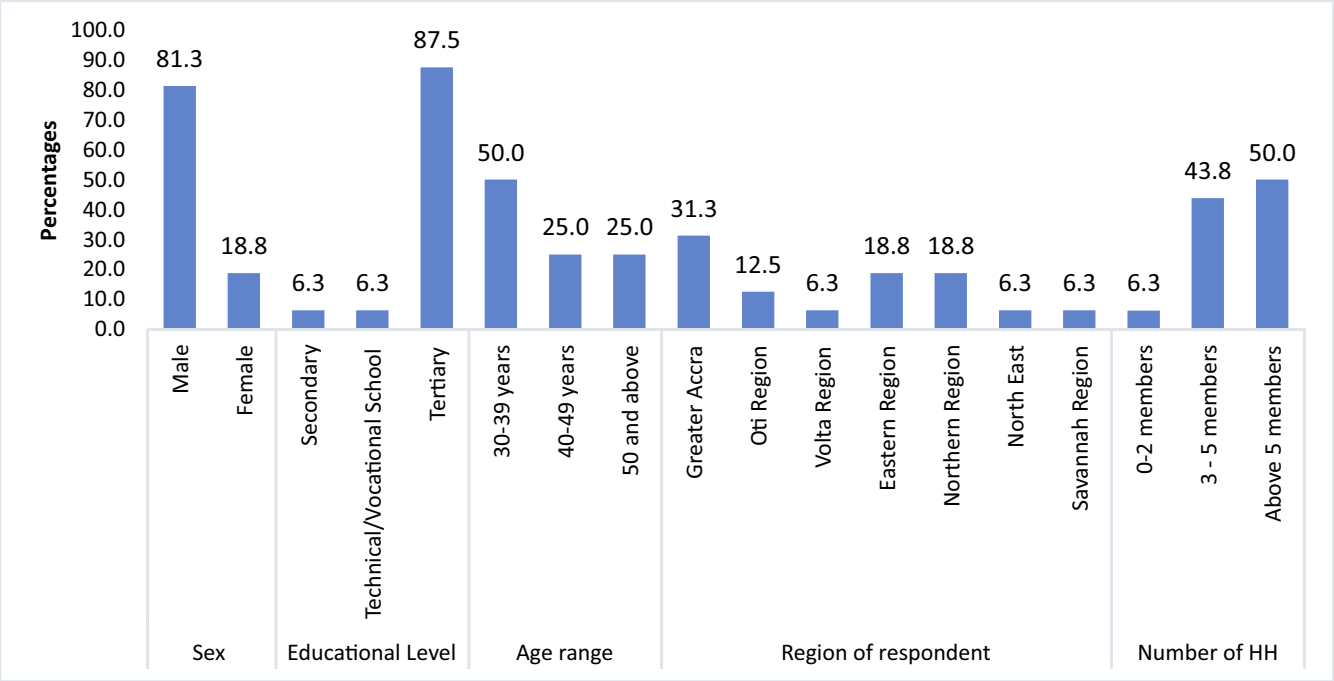

Figure 1: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Out of the total focal persons who took part in the survey, majority 13 (81.3%) were males and the remaining 3(18.8%) being females. Majority 14 (87.5%) has tertiary as their highest level of education, while 8 (50%) has the age range 30-39 years. Exactly half (50%) of the focal persons has more than 5 members in their household, while 7 (43.8) has 3-5 members. On the regional distribution of respondent, more respondents (31.3%) were from Greater Accra, relative to the other regions (Eastern 18.8%; Northern 18.8%; Oti 12.5%; Volta 6.3%, North East 6.3% and Savannah 6.3%) respectively as outlined in

5.2 Are community members are still shaking hands and hugging each other after the social distancing directive?

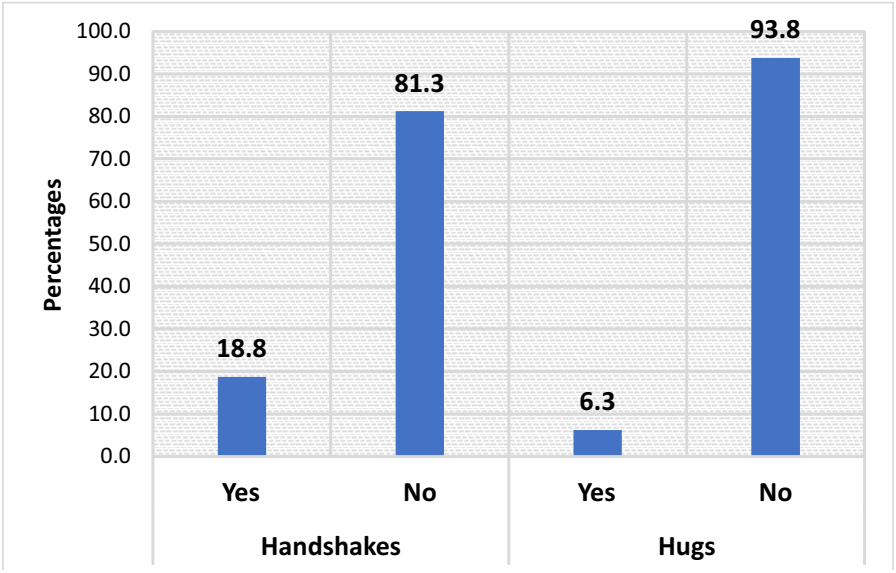

Figure 2: Focal person observation on hugs and handshake amidst COVID-19

On whether community members are still shaking hands and hugging each other after the social distancing directive, majority of the focal person indicated that per their observation, their community are not shaking hands 13 (81.3%) and hugging 15 (93.8%) each other, thus, respecting the social distance directive.

5.3 How often respondent household members go out?

Majority 75% of the focal persons indicated that members of their household often go out amidst COVID-19 directives. With regards to their reasons for going out, a multiple responses analysis (respondent choose more than one answer as a reason) indicated that a total of 25 responses were attributed to the reason members of respondent household were going out. Of the 25 responses, 36% indicated they go out for shopping while 20% went out to their farms. 16% of the responses went out to take a walk around and to work/travel respectively while the remaining 12% went out for social events (funerals, weddings etc). Even though social distancing directive is in place, respondent and the household go out for mainly economic activities to provide for the livelihood of their household.

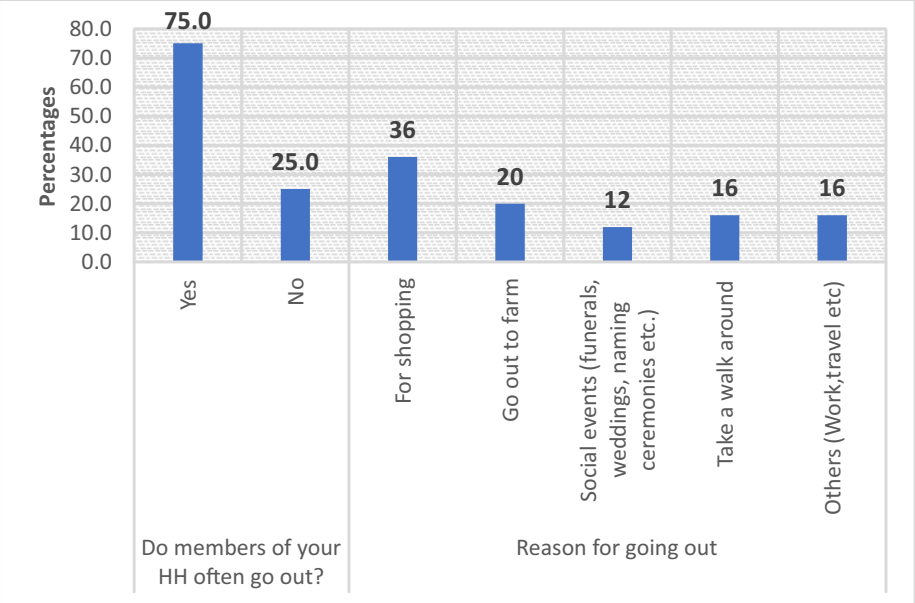

Figure 3: Distribution on how often respondent household members go out and their reason for going out

5.4 Awareness and Access of Virtual Learning Platforms for School-going children in Respondent household

Out of the total focal persons who took part of the survey, 14 (87.5%) have school-going children in their household whereas 2 (12.5%) do not.

A multiple response analysis (respondent choose more than one answer as educational level of household members) resulted in a total of 19 responses for educational level of children in focal person's household, 52.6% of children in respondent households were in basic school, 31.6% were in secondary school and 15.8% in a tertiary institution.

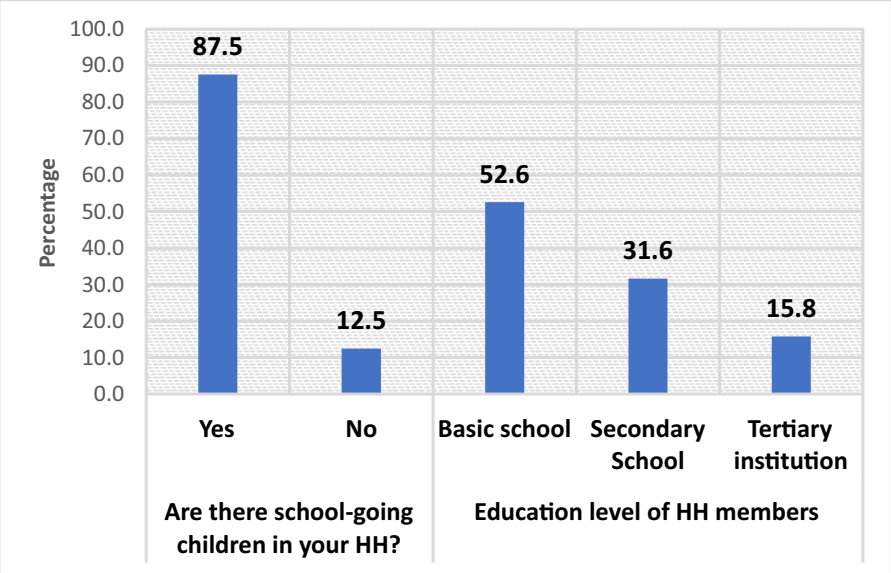

Figure 4: Distribution of the educational level of children in respondent's household

Majority 14 (87.5%) indicated being aware of the various learning platforms available for school going children while at home with 2 (12.5%) indicated otherwise. A multiple response analysis (respondent choose more than one answer on the type of learning platforms used by children of their household) resulted in 24 responses on the learning platform used by children in their household, 45.8% uses Television learning channels, 25% uses online platforms however 16.7% of the responses indicated that they use none of the learning platform. Since majority of the children in respondent household are in the basic school, it is obvious that these children are not benefitting from government virtual learning platforms. More so, children in less endowed home without amenities like TV and radio set are cut out of this directive.

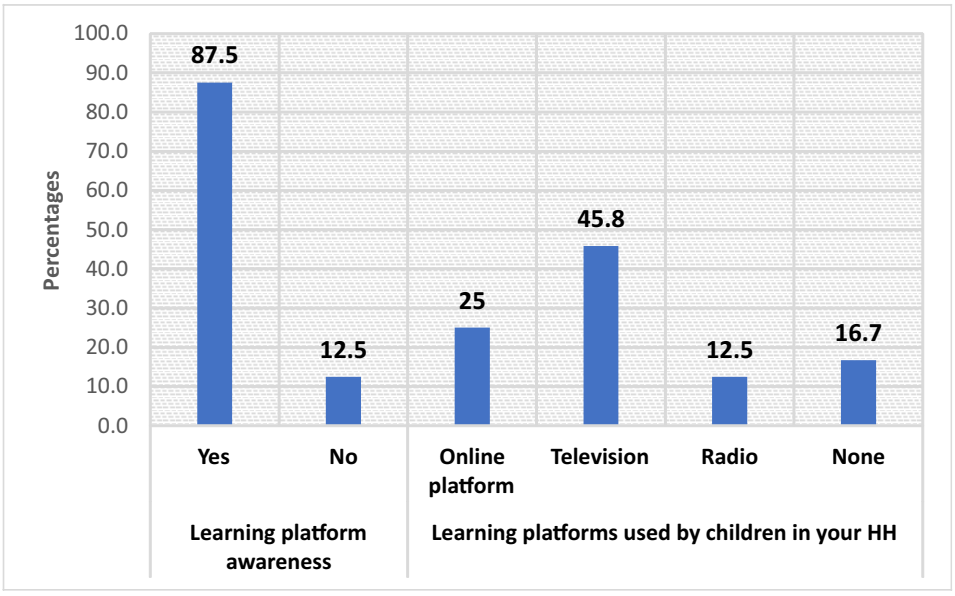

Figure 5: Learning platform awareness and use

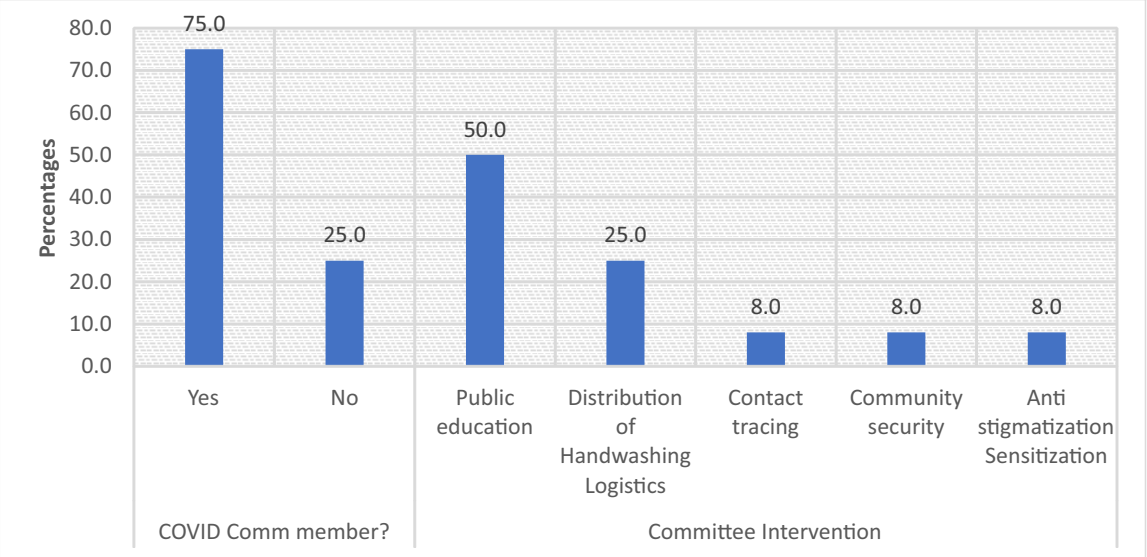

Figure 6: Respondent awareness of COVID-19 committee and the interventions undertaken by the committee

5.5 Focal Persons involvement in Community/District Covid-19 Response Efforts

75% of the focal persons who took part of the survey were either aware or members of a committee set up at the district to help the fight the spread of COVID-19. Exactly 50% of focal persons of P4H were involved in educating their communities on COVID-19 and the precautionary measures to keep safe, 25% were involved in distributing handwashing logistics (Veronica bucket, soap, tissue, hand sanitizer etc) to vantage points in their community, whereas 8% each were involved in contact tracing, community security (ie. Ensuring that foreigners were not coming into their communities) and anti-stigma sensitization respectively as indicated in Figure 6.

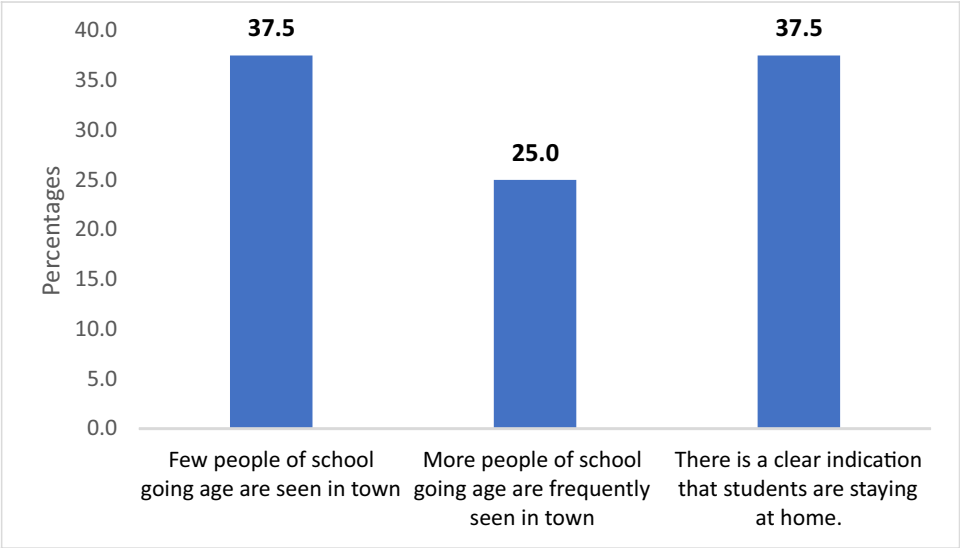

Figure 7: Opinion on how school-going Kids observing social distancing at home

On whether school going age were observing social distancing directive while at home, 37.5% of the respondent indicated that few children of school-going age are seen in town regularly and children of school-going age clearly staying at home respectively. The remaining 25% indicated that more children of school-going age are frequently in town.

5.6 Are Health Centers, Markets, Lorry Parks, Drinking/chop Bars and other Public spaces Observing Social Distancing?

56.3% of the respondents indicated that health facilities in their communities are opened, providing service and observing social distancing at the OPD. 12.5% each of the respondent indicated that health facilities in their community are opened, providing service but not observing social distancing. Additionally, in terms of usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) by health staff, the survey results indicate that 6.3% and 12.5 % of health staff respectively are providing services with and without using Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

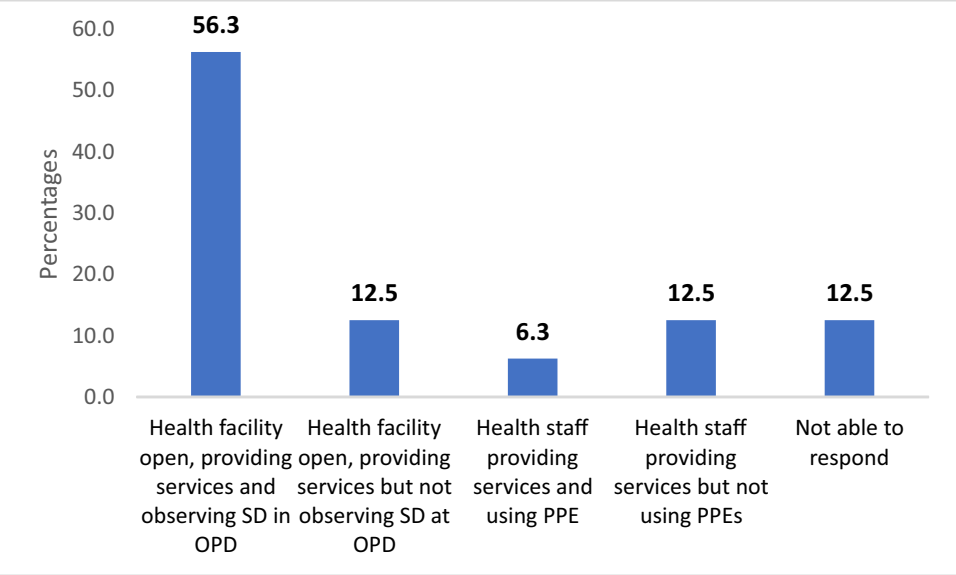

Figure 8: Opinion on how health centers are complying with social distancing

5.7 Are Markets, Lorry Parks, Restaurants, and other Public spaces Observing Social Distancing?

Majority 56% of the respondent indicated markets in their communities are opened but not observing social distancing while the remaining 44% indicated otherwise. Obviously, this is an impediment to the fight against the spread of the virus and thereby increasing community spread.

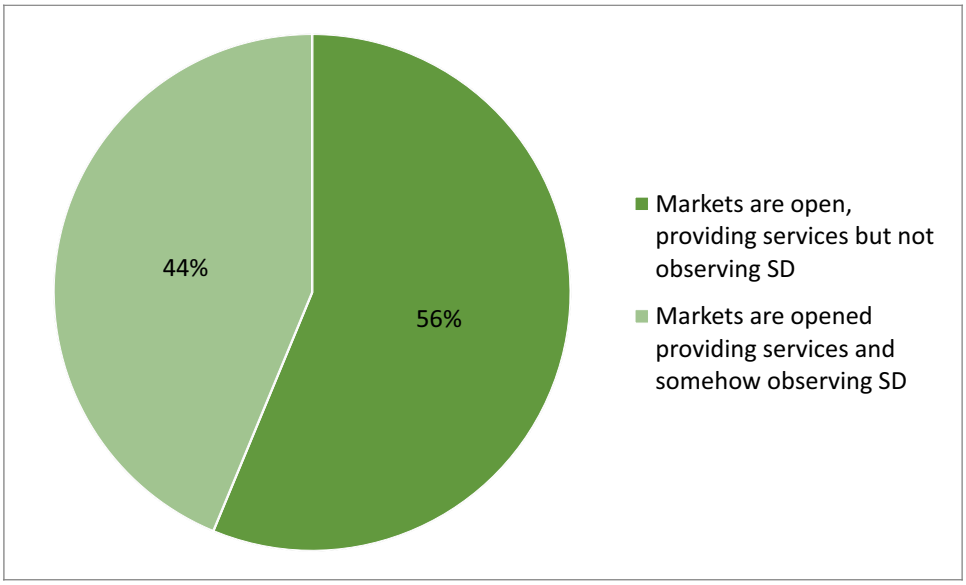

Figure 9: Opinion on how market centers complying with social distancing

Less than half (37.5%) of the respondents indicated that the lorry stations are opened, providing services to public but not adhering to social distancing. Another 37.5% also indicated that the lorry stations are adhering to fully the protocols on social distancing ie. passengers sit one or two less than the number per rows in almost all vehicle you see. Whereas the remaining 25% of the respondent indicated that the lorry stations are partially adhering to the social distancing protocols.

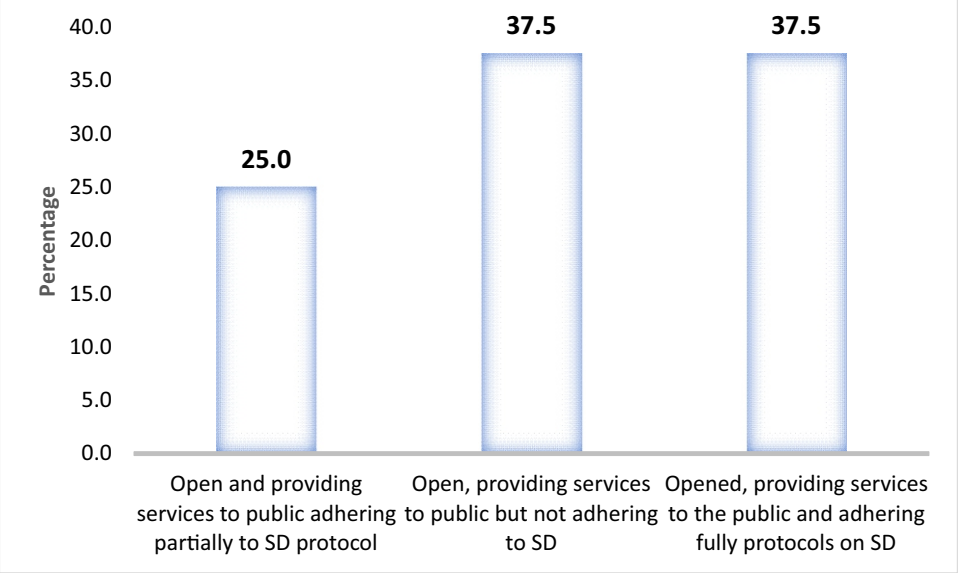

Figure 10: Opinion on how the lorry station are complying with social distancing

50% of the respondents indicated that the chief's palace in their communities are either partially or fully adhering to social distancing protocols. In addition, 12.5% indicated the chief palace are not adhering to social distancing protocols.

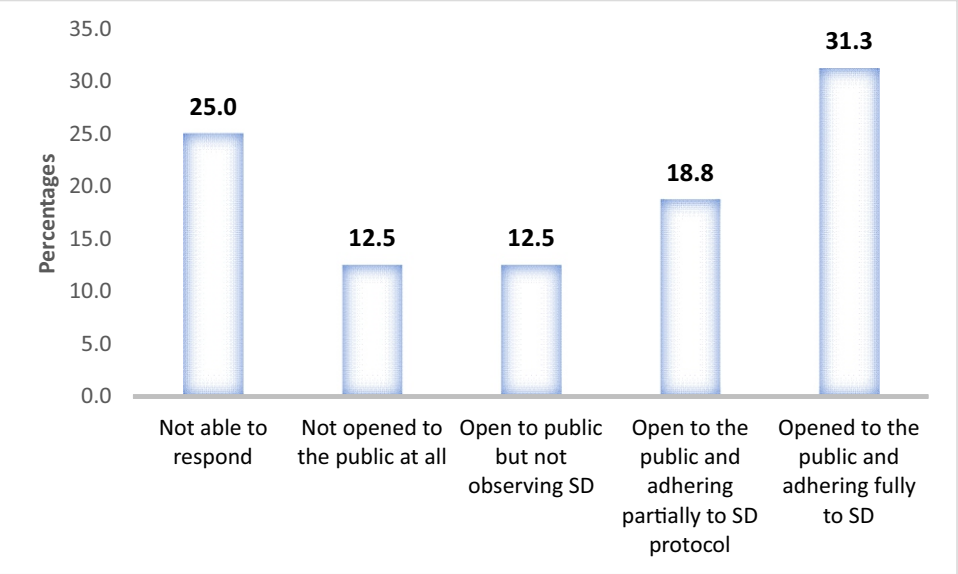

Figure 11: Opinion, on how the Chief Palace complying with social distancing

Majority 62.5% of the respondent indicated that in their view, taxi service is either adhering partially or fully to social distancing protocols while the remaining 37.5% indicated otherwise. This is encouraging to help minimize community spread.

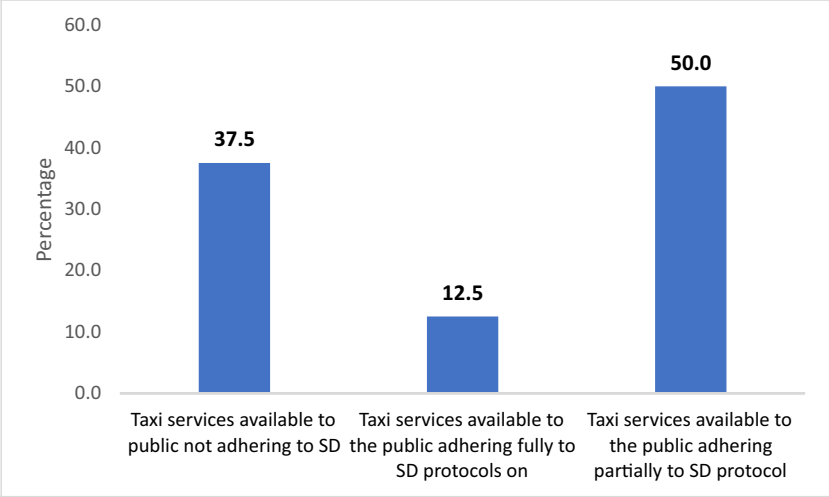

Figure 12: Opinion on how the taxis complying with social distancing

Generally, majority 92.7% of the respondent indicated that people in their neighborhood are observing social distancing while the remaining 6.3% are not observing social distancing in the view of exactly half (50%) of the respondents drinking/chop bars are opened and are conducting business as usual, whereas 18% indicated that drinking/chop bars opened but people are packaging their food and drinks away.

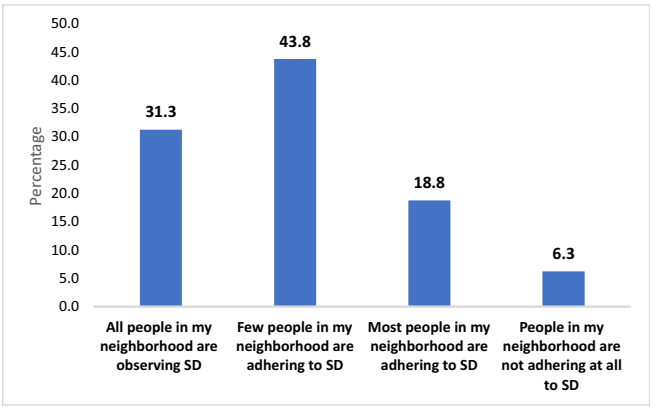

Figure 13: Opinion on how neighborhoods are complying with social distancing

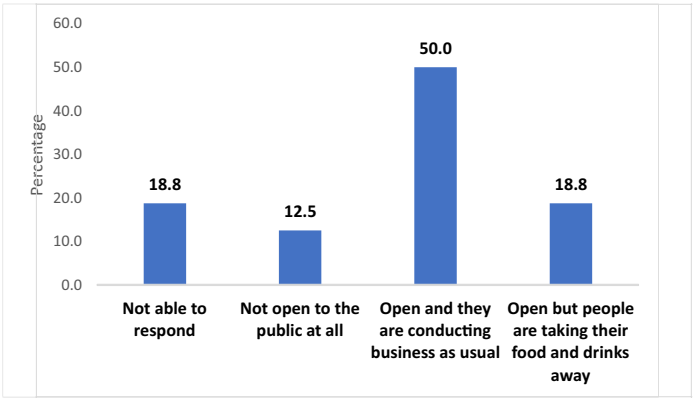

Figure 14: Opinion on how drinking/chop bars are complying with social distancing

Majority 75% of the respondents indicated that, in their opinion, the health centers are the best space so far as complying with social distancing protocols is concerned. This was followed by market centers with 12.5% with taxis and trotros recording 6.3% respectively.

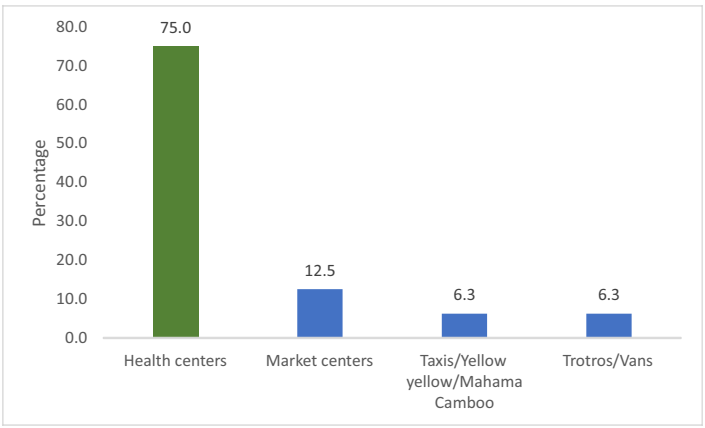

Figure 15: Opinion on the BEST space complying with social distancing

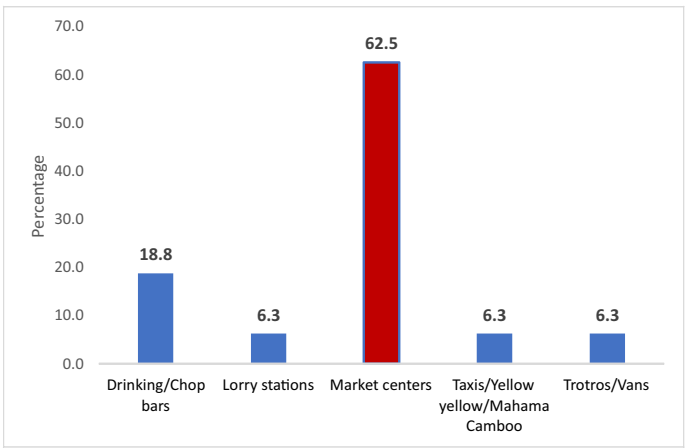

Figure 16: Opinion on the WORST space on social distancing

With regards to the worst space in the respondent opinion, 62.5% indicated that the market center is the worst space in relation to complying with the social distancing protocols. This followed by the drinking/chop bars with 18.8%.

5.8 Challenges to complying with social distancing

Table 1: Challenges to complying with social distancing in relation to water supply.

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
Water flow in the community all the times	18.8	**56.3**	12.5	12.5		100.0
Water flow in the community 4 or more days in a week with or without small queues	12.5	**37.5**	25.0	25.0		100.0
Water flow not more than 2 days in a week with long queue	25.0	**31.3**	31.3	12.5		100.0
No portable water in the community at all	50.0	31.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

Table 1 shows that the majority of the respondents 56.3% disagree that water flow in the community all the times and 37.5% also disagree that water flow in the community 4 or more days in a week with or without small queues. Majority 56.3% of the respondent disagreed that water flow not more than 2 days in a week with long queue whereas 50% strongly disagreed to the view that there was no portable water in the community at all. This largely reflect the view of the respondent that in their communities, water is not a huge challenge in complying with social distancing. Water is considered a crucial component of fighting the Covid-19 as everyone in Ghana is advised to regularly wash hands with soap to prevent the spread of the virus. In his sixth national address to the nation on the COVID-19 on April 9, 2020, the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, announced that government will foot the water bills of all Ghanaians for the months of April, May and June. The President also directed the Ghana Water Company Limited to ensure the stable supply of water, especially during the lockdown period. Since regular handwashing is one of the COVID-19 preventive measures, not having regular water supply in communities means that people are at high risk of getting infected, all things being equal. Also, because most of these communities do not have access to portable water, by implication they are likely not benefiting from the Presidents COVID-19 water relief programme.

Table 2: Challenges to complying with social distancing with regards to power supply.

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
Always have power (light) all day in the week	12.5	25.0	18.8	**37.5**	6.3	100.0
Experienced power outages not more than twice per week	**6.3**	**56.3**	6.3	31.3		100.0
Experience power outages 3 or more times every week	**37.5**	**31.3**	12.5	18.8		100.0
Experience power outages every day of the week.	**50.0**	**31.3**	6.3	6.3	6.3	100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

43.8% of the respondent affirmed (A and SA) that they have power supply all day in the week, with 37.5% (SD and D) indicating otherwise. Majority 56.3% indicated they disagree with the view that they experienced power outages not more than twice per week. 68.8% (SD and D) of the respondent also disagree that they experience power outages 3 or more times every week while 50% of the respondent strongly disagreed that they experience power outages every day of the week. This is an indication that power supply is generally not a challenge to comply with social distancing as shown in Table 2.

Table 3: Transportation challenges to comply with social distancing

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
Transportation services are available but not regular	25.0	37.5	12.5	25.0		100.0
Transportation services are available but the waiting time is a bit longer than before COVID-19	12.5	18.8	12.5	50.0	6.3	100.0
Transportation services are available but the waiting time is very long (30 or more minutes)	12.5	25.0	18.8	31.3	12.5	100.0
Trotro (commercial services) not available, only taxes	18.8	50.0	25.0	6.3		100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

Majority 62.5% (SD and D) of the respondent disagreed that transportation services are available but not regular. 50% agreed that transportation services are available but the waiting time is a bit longer than before COVID-19 whereas 43.8% of the respondent agreed that transportation services are available but the waiting time is very long (30 or more minutes). Also, 68.8% of the respondent disagreed that trotro (commercial services) are not available, only taxes are working. This indicates that transportation services are still providing services all precautionary measures are to be put in place to ensure they people comply with social distancing.

Table 4: Challenges to complying with social distancing with regards to household financing

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
Almost all household can (have enough money to) purchase essential items including food stuffs for a minimum of 1 week.	**43.8**	**31.3**	12.5	12.5		100.0
Majority of the household (60% or more) can (have enough money to) purchase essential items including food stuffs for a minimum of 1 week.	**18.8**	**37.5**	6.3	37.5		100.0
Minority of households (not more than 30%) can purchased essential items including food stuffs for at least one week.	6.3	18.8	12.5	**50.0**	**12.5**	100.0
Far less households (not more than 10%) can purchase essential items including food stuff for a minimum of one month	6.3	18.8	25.0	**37.5**	**12.5**	100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

75.1% of the respondent disagreed that almost all household can (have enough money to) purchase essential items including food stuffs for a minimum of 1 week. 56.3% disagreed that majority of the household (60% or more) can (have enough money to) purchase essential items, including food stuffs for a minimum of 1 week, 62.5% agreed that minority of households (not more than 30%) can purchased essential items including food stuffs for at least one week and 50% of the respondent also agreed that far less households (not more than 10%) can purchase essential items including food stuff for a minimum of one month clearing indicating the economic effect of COVID-19 on households.

Table 5: Challenges to complying with social distancing with regard to traditional gatherings

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
No traditional gathering is held by Chief and elders		25.0	6.3	25.0	43.8	100.0
Few traditional gatherings are still held	**12.5**	**50.0**	18.8	18.8		100.0
Traditional gatherings are held just like before COVID -19	50.0	43.8	6.3			100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

68.8% of the respondent agreed that there is no traditional gathering held by Chief and elders, 62.5% disagreed that few traditional gatherings are still held and a majority 93.8% disagreed that traditional gatherings are held just like before COVID-19. This reflect how traditional authorities are playing a role to fight COVID-19 by complying with the social distancing protocols.

Table 6: Challenges to complying with social distancing with regard to religious activities

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
All religious leaders are adhering to SD and since closed worship centers.	6.3	6.3		**37.5**	**50.0**	100.0
Majority of religious leaders are flouting ban on gathering	**25.0**	**37.5**	6.3	12.5	18.8	100.0
Some religious leaders are still worshiping with their congregants	**31.3**	**43.8**		12.5	12.5	100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

From Table7, 87.5% agreed that all religious leaders are adhering to social distancing and has since closed worship centers to abide with government directive on the ban of gathering. 62.5% of the respondent disagreed that majority of religious leaders are flouting the ban on gathering while 75.1% also disagreed that some religious leaders are still worshiping with their congregants. This is an indication that religious leaders and their members at the sub district level are complying with government directive on the ban of gathering to help fight the spread of the virus.

Table 7: Challenges to complying with social distancing in relation to security

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
There is no problem because the police & soldiers are acting very professional	12.5	12.5	25.0	**31.3**	**18.8**	100.0
Community members are adhering to the directives of the security services		12.5	6.3	**75.0**	**6.3**	100.0
There are number of reported cases of harassment by the police	**6.3**	**50.0**	18.8	18.8	6.3	100.0
Security personnel have a daily clash with citizens	**18.8**	**43.8**	12.5	12.5	12.5	100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

Exactly 50% of the respondent agreed that there is no problem between citizens and security personnel (police & soldiers) because they are acting very professional to enforce government directive on gathering. 81.3% also agreed that community members are adhering to the directives of the security services. However, 56.3% disagreed that there are number of reported cases of harassment by the security personnel and 62.6% of the respondent disagreed that security personnel have a daily clash with citizens. This indicates that citizens are aware of the need to comply with the social distancing protocol and as such the security services was not challenge to them.

5.9 Community Members Knowledge of other COVID-19 Prevention Measures

Table 8: Challenges to complying with social distancing in relation to awareness

Statements	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total %
NCCE and the information service dept are educating the community about COVID-19	6.3	31.3	6.3	**37.5**	**18.8**	100.0
Community members have adequate information on COVID-19 and the need to STAY home as much as they can	12.5	18.8	18.8	**37.5**	**12.5**	100.0
Community members have knowledge/information about KEEPING a safe distance	6.3	18.8	18.8	**43.8**	**12.5**	100.0
Community members have knowledge/information on how and when to WASH their hands	6.3	6.3	18.8	**50.0**	**18.8**	100.0
Community members have knowledge/information on how to COVER their mouth when coughing	6.3	18.8	18.8	**50.0**	**6.3**	100.0
Community members have knowledge on a number to call when somebody is ill and shows symptoms of COVID-19	**18.8**	**37.5**	12.5	12.5	18.8	100.0

SD=Strongly Disagree, D=Disagree, N=Neutral, A=Agree, SA=strongly agree

From Table 4, Majority 50% agreed that NCCE and the information service dept has been educating their communities about COVID-19 and this education has enabled the community members to stay home as much as they can, to keep a safe distance (approximately 1 meter) from each other, on how and when to properly wash their hands as well as how to cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing. However, 56.3% of the respondent disagreed to the view that community members have knowledge on a number/contact to call when somebody is ill and shows symptoms of COVID-19.

5.10 COVID-19 and Domestic Violence

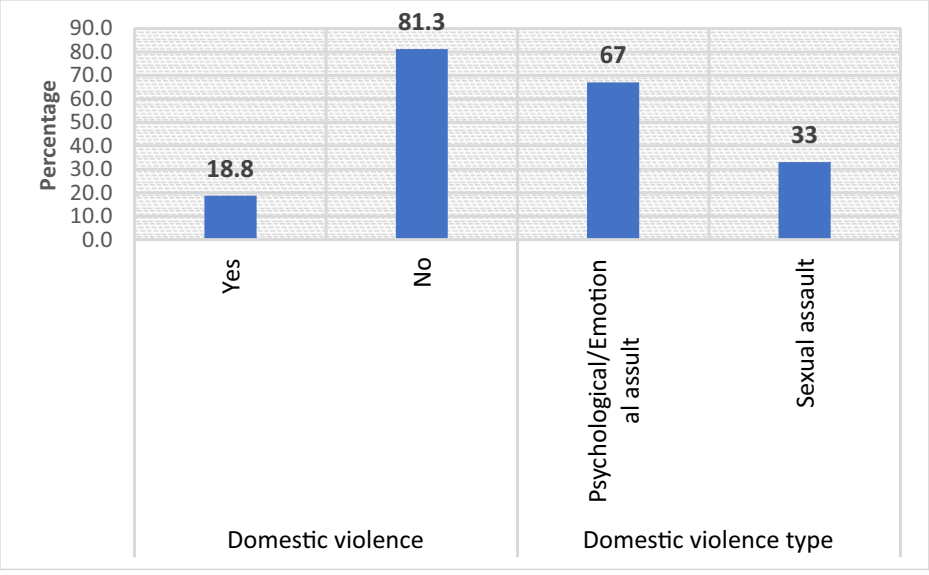

Figure 17: COVID effect on domestic violence

Majority 13 (81.3%) of the respondent indicated that COVID-19 has no effect on domestic violence in their opinion and 3 (18.8%) indicated otherwise. Out of the 3 respondents, 2(67%) indicated that psychological/Emotional assault and 1 (33%) indicated sexual assault as a result of COVID-19 in their view.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

From the findings the implementation of social distancing is being observed. Health centers were observed as the best public space to be complying with the social distancing directive at their OPDs. Also, religious establishment have all closed their worship centres to their members/ public and traditional authorities are also complying with the directive on social and public gatherings. Market centers on the other hand were observed to be flouting the social distancing directive and this may be mainly due to their inadequate knowledge on the mode of spread of the virus. Also, the market is congested making it difficult to operationalize social distancing directive.

Recommendations

To ensure that the social distancing directive is fully adhere to, the following are recommended;

1. District assemblies must ensure that market centers are decongested to allow smooth implementation of the COVID-19 social distancing directive. This can be done by having small satellite markets with few market folks or rotating market folks to sell within well under strict supervision.
2. Government must strictly enforce all the COVID-19 preventive measures put in place to ensure compliance, especially in market centers, by deploying law enforcement agencies to enforce the directives.
3. Public education should be intensified at the sub district level on the mode of spread of the COVID-19.

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SEND-WEST AFRICA
Siapha Kamara
Chief Executive Officer
+233 208 112 322 (Ghana)
+233 242 038 533 (Ghana)
+231 886 453 326 (Liberia)
+232 785 923 18 (Sierra Leone)
siapha@sendwestafrica.org

SEND GHANA
George Osei-Bimpeh
Country Director
A28 Regimanuel Estate
Nungua Barrier, Sakumono, Accra, Ghana
+233 302 716 860/+233 302 716 830
+233 204 509 481
osei-bimpah@sendwestafrica.org

SEND-SIERRA LEONE
Joseph Ayamga
Country Director
Buedu Road Kissi Town
Kailahun, Sierra Leone
+232 782 068 53
ayamga.sensl@gmail.com

SEND-LIBERIA
Dr. Samuel N. Duo
Acting Country Director
P.O Box 1439
Robert Field Highway, Schiein Community
Lower Margibi County, Liberia
+231 886 230 978
sendliberia@yahoo.com

 @SEND_GHANA

 Sendghanaofficial

 www.sendwestafrica.org